

Farmers' Champion

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Winter Months on the Farm

How to
Improve
Them

Feeding for Milk

Keeping the Dairy Herd Up to the
Maximum Production in Cold Weather
By PROF. G. C. HUMPHREY
Wisconsin College of Agriculture

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It is easy to make cows give an abundant flow of milk in spring and summer when pastures are luxuriant and the days warm, but in the severe winter months the greatest skill of the feeder is demanded to keep up the production of the dairy herd. By buying plenty of expensive feeds it is possible to do this, but that removes the profits and the problem is, how to get a large production of milk from an economical system of feeding.

Many dairymen make a great mistake in not keeping enough grain and roughage to carry their herds through the winter. Instead they sell grain and roughage in large amounts and as a result find themselves handicapped for feed before spring pasture is available. Unless a man grows enormous crops, this sale of farm product in its original form not only robs the soil of fertility but also is a false economy, for the reason that in late winter the farmer has to buy feed at high prices when the supply is scarce or has to sell his cattle because of lack of feed for them.

Much wiser is the dairy farmer, who fills his feed bins and his silo or his root cellar and feeds their contents to his herd during the winter. He markets his produce in the form of milk and besides realizing a good profit from it also has the use of the manure from the herd to return to his fields. A money value is realized from the grains and also a fertilizing

grain ration consists of wheat bran 3 parts, oats 3 parts, corn meal 2 parts, and distillers' grains 2 parts. Where the cow requires variation in her feed small amounts of dried brewers grains or oil meal are used occasionally.

Prof. W. A. Heary speaks as follows regarding these feeds: "Wheat bran is especially valuable due to its laxative properties. It furnishes bulk and plenty of protein and ash so essential in milk formation. The combination of bran and corn meal is not excelled as a dairy feed. The bulk of the oat though carrying little nutriment renders this grain a feed of light character which is easily digestible. Oats contain a higher proportion of digestible protein than corn or wheat. This grain in itself is a well-balanced ration. Corn meal is a heavy, rich feed and should always be lightened or extended by the use of bran, shorts, oil meal or some other feed of light character."

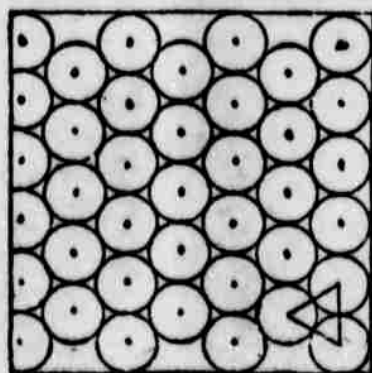
Feeding experiments prove that dried distillers' grains are more valuable than oats as a feed for the dairy herd. Cows are fond of brewers grains and their use influences a good milk flow. Because of the sloppy character of wet brewers grains they should be supplemented by some dry feed in the winter ration.

Oil meal is a very healthful feed and brings the animals into good condition, with pliable skins and oily

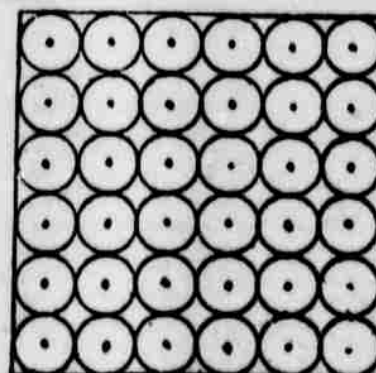


Careful mixing of feeds suited to the individual needs of each cow is the secret of successful feeding for milk. This feed car makes the mixing of rations an easy matter.

SETTING TREES IN ORCHARDS



Hexagonal—Square.



The diagrams show the economy of space in arranging trees in hexagonal style as compared with the square method. By this means the trees are

distributed so as to use the space much more evenly though it is not so convenient for cultivation between the rows of trees.

Revised Political Maxim.
A government of the people for the people by consent of the people.—Life.

What Would Happen?
Uncle Ezra says: "I dunno what would happen to the av'ridge man of he once got his work all done up."

WHEAT ON DRY FARM

Bluestem and Five Varieties of
Hard Spring Unsafe.

Durum, Introduced From Southeastern
Russia Where Rainfall is Light,
Adapted to Climate of West-
ern Plains Area.

In a large part of the dry farming territory the bluestem and five varieties of hard spring wheats are very unsafe crops. Where bread wheats can be grown, the Red Five, selected strains known as Johnson's Five, Golden Five, etc., are good yielders and the berry is usually plump and hard. The millers, however, have placed these varieties in a market class designated as velvet chaff, and the price is a few cents lower per bushel than the bluestem varieties bring. These latter include both bearded and bald types, writes Manley Champlin in the Farmer and Breeder. The variety known as pedigree bluestem has given good results at the Highmore Substation as reported in Bulletin 115 of the South Dakota Experiment station. This station is situated near the eastern border of the dry farming belt.

Very little winter wheat is grown at present, but its early ripening and good quality and yield of grain are interesting many of the progressive farmers who have obtained some very good results. The Minnesota station advises its use only sparingly. Five acres is considered enough to start with. If it proves to be well suited to your conditions the acreage can be increased. There is danger of winter killing, and too much dependence should not be placed on this crop. Turkey Red and Kharkov are the commercial varieties grown.

Where bread wheat is grown with difficulty, Nature comes to the rescue with the hard macaroni or durum wheats. Until very recently there was difficulty in marketing this class of wheat and even today the price is 10 to 20 per cent lower than for hard spring wheats of the bread varieties. This fact is probably due to the American love of white bread. The durum wheat flour makes a palatable, nutritious bread, but the yellow color has been inveighed against by fastidious custom. Bulletin No. 2 of the bureau of plant industry gives an interesting history of the trials the durum wheat grower has had to overcome, as well as advice as to how to plant, etc. These wheats were introduced from southeastern Russia, where the rainfall is light and the changes of temperature severe. They are, therefore, adapted to the climate of the western plains area.

In describing the characteristics of macaroni or durum wheat Mr. M. A. Carlton says in the above mentioned bulletin: "The wheats of this group grow rather tall and have stems that are either pithy within or hollow. . . . The leaves are usually broad and smooth, but have a peculiar whitish green color and possess an extremely harsh cuticle. The heads are comparatively slender in most varieties, compactly formed, occasionally very short, and are always bearded with the longest beards known to wheat." The peculiar ability of the durum wheats to resist drought and severe changes of temperature as well as their early ripening qualities and high yielding capacity make them especially fitted for the needs of the dry farmer. Here is a money crop of which he is practically sure. The yields vary from 10 to 35 bushels per acre. The Kubanka and Arnautka varieties have given the best results in this section.

Emmer is widely grown as a substitute feed grain where oats are an uncertain crop. It has not the feeding value of oats, but when ground makes a fairly good feed for any farm stock. The chaff clings to the grain when threshed, thus giving the crop great bulk. There is not an established market and farmers rarely grow more than enough for their own feed. The yields vary from 20 to 90 bushels, 80 being considered a fair yield. Emmer is commonly called speltz.

Just as Guilty.

"If you're one of those aggravating persons that makes everybody else swear," says the Philosopher of Folly, "you are guilty of profanity, though you never uttered a cuss word in your life."